

## Town focus **Rancho Santa Fe**

# Photo synthesis

### Summer camp exposes kids to the art of taking pictures

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**R**ANCHO SANTA FE—

Seeing the world through children's eyes might help a seasoned photographer get a different perspective on the ordinary.

Professional photographer Jennifer Nelson certainly thinks so.

During the summer, Nelson offers a photography camp for students in third through 12th grades.

"It's great to see how they view things," Nelson said.

"They'll think some things are funny that maybe I didn't even see. And they often have wonderfully creative ideas."

Through meeting for just two hours a day, the students will get a wide range of exposure.

They study camera features, lighting, portrait photography and other basics. They also learn about composition — where to place a subject — and creating a center of interest.

They shoot a roll of 24-exposure film each morning, which Nelson has developed in the afternoon. The next day, the campers critique each other's work.

Each group completes its weeklong session by compiling scrap-books — a portfolio of sorts — to take home.

Nelson bases the camp in her private studio, but much of the students' work is done outside.

They also take short field trips. In the yard of a nearby old house are farm implements and the students always enjoy shooting them, Nelson said. The setting, which has a rural feel to it, adds photographic intrigue that the students seem to appreciate.

They also walk to a ranch where they photograph horses, and to a garden filled with plumerias and ginger.

"It's all done with an eye toward appreciating the beau-



ty around us," Nelson said. "It's not often that today's kids get to see what old barn equipment looks like. I try to give them some unusual things to shoot, so it gets their imaginations going."

One day they take their pets with them.

"That's always been popular. They all love to shoot their pets," Nelson said.

Johanna Bible's horse, Dolly, accompanied her to camp for a photo shoot one day.

"It was fun taking pictures of her," said Johanna, 9. "And I like that we got to photograph things like her turtles and a cat around where Jennifer lives."

Jacquelyn Duncan, 12, said the camp was great fun and

she learned a lot. She liked the variety of things she got to photograph — especially animals. Jacquelyn thinks she might want to be a photographer when she grows up.

"You do kinda have to have an eye for it," Jacquelyn said. "It's not very difficult, but you do have to have patience with it."

The camps will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday throughout the summer. The cost is \$190. Participants must furnish their own rolls of 35mm film.

For more information and registration, call Nelson at (858) 756-1830.